

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DLOS-03 COA-01 FEA-01

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 OIC-02 /105 W

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R 071100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5158

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USUN NEW YORK 424

C O N F I D E N T I A L EYKJAVIK 0150

COPENHAGEN FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GATT ETRD PLOS EFIS GW IC

SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL MEETING - ICELAND-FRG DISPUTE

REF: GENEVA 0713 (NOTAL)

1. GOI COMMERCE SEC GEN CALLED EMBOFF TO REPORT ON OUTCOME OF
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FRG-ICELAND DISPUTE OVER FISHING LIMITS WHICH WAS RAISED BY

ICELANDERS AT GATT COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3. ICELAND PRESENTED ITS VIEWS (GERMAN FISH BAN VIOLATES GATT) AND GERMANY ITS VIEWS (DISPUTE NOT MATTER FOR GATT) AND MATTER WAS LET LIE AT THAT POINT WITH NO OTHER COUNTRIES TAKING SIDES OR OTHERWISE INTERVENING.

2. SECGEN TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED TO LEARN AT TIME OF MEETING THAT US MISSION HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO MAKE STATEMENT THAT MATTER WAS OUTSIDE PURVIEW OF GATT BUT LATER REFRAINED FROM DOING SO. HE SAID UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GERMANY AND ICELAND WAS THAT "NEITHER SIDE WOULD SEEK TO MARSHALL SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION." EACH WAS TO SPEAK ITS PIECE AND LET IT GO AT THAT. SECGEN SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNFORTUNATE HAD ALL THE OTHER COUNTRIES STAYED OUT WITH ONLY THE US INTERVENING.

3. SECGEN EMPHASIZED HE WAS NOT CRITICIZING OR COMPLAINING, BUT MERELY INFORMING EMBOFF AS TO WHAT HAPPENED AND TO EXPRESS HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY THINGS WENT. HE SAID ICELAND PLANNED NOTHING FURTHER AT THE MOMENT AND WOULD "LIE LOW."

4. COMMENT: GOI'S PRESENTATION OF ISSUE TO GATT WAS APPARENTLY AIMED AS MUCH AT DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION (TO DEMONSTRATE GOVERNMENT'S UNCEASING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN "JUSTICE") AS IT WAS ATT WINNING THE SYMPATHY OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN ICELAND'S "STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL." (THE MERE PRESENTATION OF EACH COUNTRY'S POSITION MERITED FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES.) GIVEN ICELAND'S SENSITIVITIES IN THE FISHING LIMITS DISPUTE, ITS DESIRE TO RELATE ITS TROUBLES WITH ITS NEIGHBORS TO THE NATO BASE, AND ITS FANTASIZED VIEW OF US POSITION ON LOS, EMBASSY IS GREATLY APPRECIATIVE OF US MISSION'S HANDLING OF THE MATTER AS REPORTED REFTEL. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND NEED FOR USG TO DEFINE ITS POSITION ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS, WE AGREE WITH US MISSION'S JUDGMENT AND BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE USG NOT BE ISOLATED ON SUCH AN ISSUE.
MARTIN

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